

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EB-07 DLOS-03 DOTE-00 IO-10

INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /078 W

----- 059905

O 051423Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6971

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3490

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJ: ISRAELI LEADERS ON PASSAGE OF ISRAELI CARGOES
THROUGH SUEZ CANAL

1. DURING TOUR OF SINAI JUNE 3 IN CONNECTION WITH
IMPLEMENTATION OF ISRALI DECISION TO UNILATERALLY
THIN OUT FORCES THERE, DEFMIN PERES SPOKE OF HIS
BELIEF THAT ISRAELI CARGOES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO TRANSIT
THROUGH REOPENED SUEZ CANAL. FOLLOWING IS RELEVANT
PORTION OF GOI GOVT PRESS OFFICE BULLETIN.

2. BEGIN TEXT. REGARDING THE OPENING OF THE CANAL,
MR PERES SAID THE CANAL BELONGED TO EGYPT, BUT THE
ISTANBUL AGREEMENT STIPULATED THAT SHIPS OF ALL FLAGS
COULD PASS THIS WATERWAY. THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
BELIEVED, HE SAID, THAT EGYPT WOULD HONOUR THE PROVISION
OF THE SEPARATION-OF-FORCES AGREEMENT PERMITTING THE
PASSAGE OF ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH THE CANAL; THUS
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CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN THE
REGION. END TEXT.

3. GOI PRESS BULLETIN ALSO QUOTES PERES AS STATING, REGARDING

ISRAELI THIN-OUT GESTURE: QUOTE - THIS STEP WAS A UNILATERAL MEASURE, FOR WHICH ISRAEL DID NOT EXPECT ANY RECOMPENSE EXCEPT THE CREATION OF A MORE FAVORABLE CLIMATE. END QUOTE.

4. COMMENT: IN LAST FEW DAYS, RABIN (JUNE 3 TV INTERVIEW, TEL AVIV 3450, AND JUNE 2 PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING THINOUT) AND ALLON (JUNE 4 KNESSET STATEMENT, TEL AVIV 6947) AS WELL AS PERES HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT GOI EXPECTS SADAT TO LET ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH REOPENED CANAL. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOI ANNOUNCEMENT RE ANY SUCH CARGOES THAT MAY BE ON WAY IN NEAR FUTURE. TODAY'S PRESS IS BEGINNING TO CARRY NEWS THAT "TEST" IS EXPECTED SOON WITH FOCUS ON REPORTED LIBERIAN FLAG VESSEL CARRYING SUGAR FROM GAZA AND OCCUPIED TERRITORY; VESSEL REPORTEDLY ORIGINALLY BOUND FOR EILAT BUT RE-DIRECTED TO GAZA AND EXPECTED TO TRANSIT CANAL IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

5. IF STORIES ARE CORRECT, THEREFORE, "TEST" WILL OCCUR BEFORE RABIN VISIT AND PROBABLY BEFORE CABINET MEETING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 8 WHICH IS BEING BILLED AS FORUM FOR "POLITICAL DEBATE" ON GOI POSITION RE FORD-RABIN MEETING.
VELIOTES

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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